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Application No. 10/065,589
Amendment A

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended without adding new matter in order to correct minor informalities and to address other issues raised by the Examiner. More specifically, claims 1, 2, 15 and 20 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-24 still remain pending in the subject application. Reconsideration of claims 1-24 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

1. Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the claim language and to ensure antecedent basis. More specifically, claim 1 was amended to further recite the "strengthening and rigidifying at least a portion of the new whole wafer backside surface to strengthen and rigidify at least a portion of the whole wafer," and have further amended the last four lines to reflect the addition. Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 1 meets the definite requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further indicated that the word "surface" at line 15 of claim 1 as originally filed should potentially be changed. Applicants submit that the word "surface" is accurately used to define "new whole wafer backside surface." (Claim 1, with emphasis). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejections to claims 1-23 be withdrawn and a notice of allowance be issued.

Claims 2, 15 and 20 have also been amended to clarify the claims and/or to provide accurate antecedent basis. The Application as filed provides support for the amendments

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of claims 1, 2, 15 and 20 throughout the specification, and no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

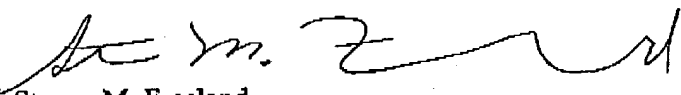
2. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claim 24 has been indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims 1-24 in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 4, 2004


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